

SITUATION REPORT

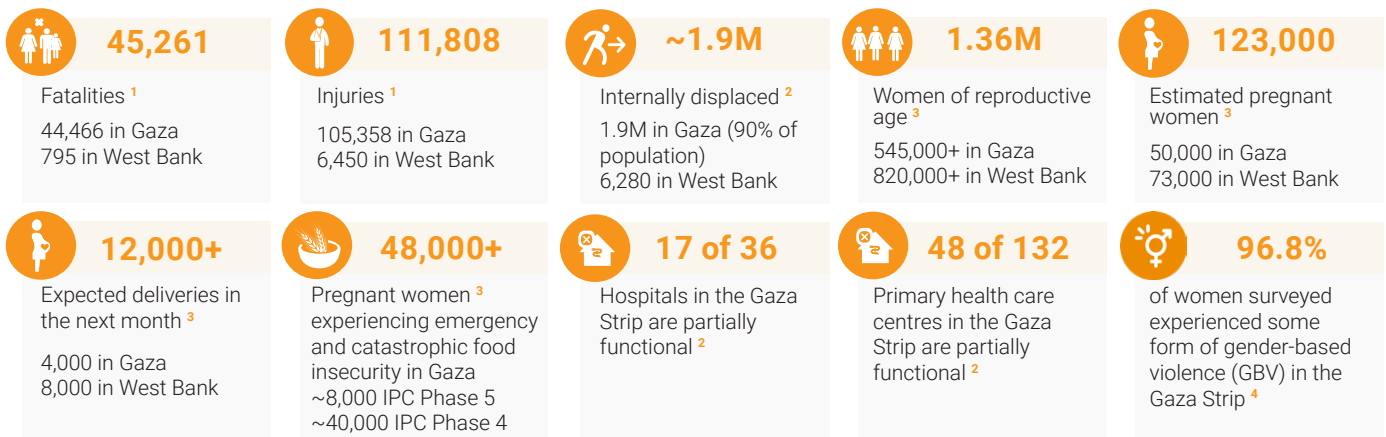
CRISIS IN PALESTINE

Country:	Occupied Palestinian Territory
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KEY FIGURES



HIGHLIGHTS

Gaza is facing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, with over 45,000 people killed, at least 111,000 injured, and nearly 1.9 million displaced multiple times, amid relentless bombardments. Women and children account for 70% of fatalities. Over 70% of Gaza's infrastructure—from health services to water and sanitation—has been destroyed. Eighty percent (80%) of the Gaza strip is now a high risk area where people are forced to flee in search of the basics, especially in terms of safety. The UN Special Committee has determined that Israel's warfare methods in Gaza are consistent with the characteristics of genocide

Women and girls in Gaza, including 50,000 pregnant women, have been left without the essentials to survive. As winter sets in, food is insufficient, shelter items are in extremely short supply, water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions are deteriorating even further, and the already alarming rates of food insecurity and malnutrition are worsening.

Around 130,000 people fleeing the north have sought refuge in overcrowded shelters and abandoned buildings in Gaza city, straining already overstretched resources. Around 70% are women and girls. Risks of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse have increased at the same time as access to life-saving services across Gaza and the West Bank is restricted.

North Gaza Governorate, remains besieged, leaving 65,000 to 75,000 people, including an estimated 1,720 pregnant women, and adolescent girls, cut off from essential aid for over 60 days. Areas such as Jabalia, Beit Lahia, and the surroundings of Kamal Adwan and Al Awda hospitals remain almost entirely inaccessible.

Israeli forces have been using lethal, war-like tactics across the northern West Bank, deepening humanitarian needs and displacing thousands. Curfews and stepped up movement restrictions are impacting livelihoods and preventing families from accessing essential services. Around 73,000 pregnant women have been left struggling to access antenatal and postnatal care, including over 8,000 women expected to give birth in the coming month. The UN Human Rights Office has reported grave breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including extrajudicial killings and the use of Palestinians as human shields.

Aid restrictions are crippling humanitarian efforts. Forty-nine (49) UNFPA trucks, loaded with reproductive health equipment and supplies, including medicines that prevent women hemorrhaging during childbirth, tents, disposable sanitary pads, hygiene kits, and generators are stalled at the border, waiting to enter Gaza. Some trucks have been stranded since early September. Only 41% of planned UN aid movements were facilitated in November; none were permitted to northern Gaza.

UNFPA reached over 98,000 people in November: Over 25,000 people accessed life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services; 60,000 individuals accessed protection services; and nearly 13,000 adolescents and youth were reached through education, mental health, and recreational initiatives.

¹ Palestinian Ministry of Health - 02 December 2024

² OCHA Reported Impact Snapshot - Gaza Strip - 26 November 2024

³ MISP calculation

⁴ GBV Sub-Cluster Analysis - November 2024

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The healthcare system is close to collapse. Only 17 of 36 hospitals are partially functional, while 84% of healthcare facilities have been destroyed, amid a dire shortage of fuel, medical supplies and food. Kamal Adwan Hospital, the last major facility in North Gaza offering maternal and newborn care, has been besieged and damaged, leaving pregnant women struggling to access critical care. Newborns have died due to a lack of incubators, electricity, and medical supplies. Across Gaza, maternal deaths, miscarriages and preterm births are rising.

"I was not ready for childbirth. We are very tired."

Jawaher fled the fighting in North Gaza to Gaza city. She was in labour for two days, looking for shelter, before finally reaching Al-Sahaba Hospital to give birth.

- There is a strong likelihood that famine is imminent in areas within the northern Gaza Strip. There are also reports of a stark increase in the number of households experiencing severe hunger in central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. Around 345,000 people in Gaza, including 8,000 pregnant women and 38,000 adolescent girls, are facing famine-like conditions (IPC 5). Food insecurity now affects 90% of Gaza's population, and malnutrition rates are 10 times higher than before the escalation of hostilities. There are increased reports of preterm and low-birth weight babies and malnutrition is making it harder for new mothers to breastfeed.
- A GBV analysis conducted by the GBV Sub-Cluster found that from October 2023 to September 2024, 96% of women surveyed experienced some form of GBV. Types of violence included verbal (97%), psychological (90%), economic (52%), physical (39%), and sexual violence (11%). Displacement has intensified these risks, with 94% of women living in tents or camps and 64% sharing spaces with eight or more people. Around 98.8% of respondents reported feeling unsafe. Key reasons include fear of bombing and targeting of homes (98.4%), lack of safe living conditions (80.4%), loss of security sources (70.9%), alienation and lack of privacy (62.3%), displacement and exposure to strangers (53.8%), ethical and social breakdowns (46.4%), ongoing violence (40.3%), and family separation (21.3%). Violence has also been reported at shelters, aid distribution points, and health facilities, with 31% of women identifying humanitarian workers as perpetrators.

"We have no mattress, no food, no clothes—nothing. We fled the airstrikes as we were."

Adla, displaced from Jabalia, now seeking refuge in the Yarmouk displacement site. Many, like Adla, raised white flags as they walked in search of safety.

- Harsh winter temperatures, compounded by heavy rains and rising sea tides, are further exacerbating dire water, sanitation and hygiene conditions, sewage accumulation and the spread of disease. Women and girls are reporting higher rates of reproductive and urinary tract infections due to poor hygiene conditions. Menstrual hygiene supplies are also in short supply.
- The conflict is fueling a mental health crisis among Gaza's large youth population. A survey of over 1,000 young people revealed that 56% feel unsafe, 91% report worsening health, and 51% are highly food insecure. Additionally, 72% of girls face challenges accessing menstrual hygiene products, while 71% cite increased pressure on girls to marry before the age of 18. Almost all youth – 96% – report decreased privacy, and 68% feel so hopeless they have stopped engaging in routine activities.

UNFPA RESPONSE

In November 2024, UNFPA delivered vital SRH and GBV prevention, mitigation, and response services across Gaza and the West Bank.

- **Over 25,000 people received SRH services**, through the provision of essential medical supplies and clean delivery kits to health facilities, as well as postpartum kits to new mothers. Emergency obstetric and newborn care was expanded at key facilities. UNFPA-supported primary health care services offered family planning, antenatal/postnatal care, STI management, and gynecological consultations. Five containerized health units, part of larger field hospitals, are filling gaps in maternal health care in displacement camps, including emergency obstetric care.
- **GBV prevention and response efforts reached over 60,000 individuals**, through safe spaces, cash assistance, dignity kits, and skills-building programmes for survivors.
- **Over 12,700 adolescents and youth received support** through education, mental health and recreational programmes, and remote counseling services.



RESULTS SNAPSHOTS



25,000
People reached with **SRH services**



100
Health Facilities (PHC, medical points, field hospitals and hospitals) supported



60,000
People reached with **GBV prevention, mitigation, and response** activities



12
Women and Girls Safe Spaces supported

Gaza Strip		
	118	Inter-Agency Reproductive health kits were provided to service delivery points across northern, central, and southern Gaza, supporting 17,500 deliveries and SRH services for three months.
	2,110	Anti-D, Oxytocin and Bakri balloons were delivered to prevent Rhesus disease and manage postpartum haemorrhage.
	5	Containerized maternal health units provided basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in the Middle Area and Khan Younis, supporting over 2,000 safe deliveries.
	1,611	Postpartum kits, containing essential hygiene and care items for mothers and newborns, were distributed to new mothers in shelters and at hospitals.
	6	Women and Girls' Safe spaces reached 10,000 women and girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response services, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), case management, and information sessions in southern and central Gaza.
	30	GBV and child protection case managers trained on the "Care for Child Survivors" approach.
	12,415	Dignity kits distributed to women and girls, containing menstrual pads and essential hygiene items.
	11,500	Women and girls received two months' supply of disposable menstrual pads, totaling 275,000 pads.
	1,592	Women supported through humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and empowerment initiatives, including skills-building and small business projects.
	1,477	Adolescent kits distributed, containing hygiene items, basic first aid supplies, clothing, educational materials, and stress-relief toys.
	5,730	Adolescents, youth, and women were reached through youth-led initiatives, including recreational activities, aid distribution, awareness-raising sessions, and informal education in temporary learning spaces.
	1,691	Youth received psychosocial first aid through the Shubak Al Shabab helpline and the Mostashari application .
West Bank		
	87	Inter-Agency Reproductive health kits were provided to the Ministry of Health, UNRWA, the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, and Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association to support emergency centres for women, including pregnant women, unable to access health facilities/hospitals, supporting over 10,000 SRH services.
	50	Fetal heart rate dopplers and electrocardiograms delivered to emergency centers to strengthen maternal and newborn health care.
	5	Mobile health teams in Area C supported to provide integrated SRH and GBV services.
	20	Midwives from the northern West Bank trained on self-care and crisis support through UNFPA's partner, the Palestinian Counseling Center.
	6	Women and Girls' Safe Spaces reached 7,000 women and girls with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response services, including MHPSS, case management, and information sessions.
	21	Private sector health providers trained on GBV survivor care and counselling techniques.
	852	Women supported through humanitarian CVA to address urgent needs and reduce vulnerability
	5,000	Dignity kits distributed to women and girls in Jenin, Tulkarm, Balata Refugee Camps, H2, and Area C.
	3,430	Adolescents and youth supported through youth-friendly health services, psychosocial support (PSS), mental health and community resilience-based activities led by supported youth local councils, Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) and Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER).
	400	Active youth volunteers trained in emergency preparedness and humanitarian response, operating across 15 community locations in the West Bank.

COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Gender-Based Violence

UNFPA leads and coordinates the [GBV Area of Responsibility](#), overseeing sub-national clusters in Gaza and the West Bank. In Gaza the GBV AoR has 51 members from WLOs, NNGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies. During the reporting period, GBV service mapping and referral focal points were updated and 30 GBV and child protection case managers in Gaza were trained on the "Caring for Child Survivors" guidelines. The 16 Days of Activism campaign was launched in Gaza on 25 November, and the Gaza GBV Case Management Taskforce published a report highlighting key [GBV trends in September 2024](#). A comprehensive analysis of GBV risks and experiences faced by women and girls during the ongoing war in Gaza (October 2023 to September 2024) will be published in early December.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

UNFPA leads the [SRH Technical Working Group \(SRHWG\)](#) within the Health Cluster, advocating for SRH priorities and coordinating interagency responses. Key efforts during the reporting period included developing and updating guidance notes for clean delivery and [postpartum kits](#), conducting weekly health cluster meetings, and introducing the SRHWG dashboard webpage to partners through orientation sessions, with plans to operationalize it by year-end. A study on the war's impact on maternal health was launched in Gaza, alongside a study in the West Bank on the "Capacities and Abilities of Midwives to Manage Urgent Deliveries," aimed at guiding future capacity-building interventions. Collaborations with the Nutrition Cluster improved protocols for shared target groups, while discussions on disability inclusion advanced equitable access to SRH services.

Adolescents and Youth

UNFPA leads the adolescent and youth health emergency response and advocacy through the Palestinian Adolescent Health Coalition and the United Nations Youth Group, ensuring youths' needs are integrated into the humanitarian response. During the reporting period, UNFPA published [a study on the devastating effects of the ongoing war on Gaza on youth](#) and advanced plans to establish an Adolescents & Youth Working Group and emergency response mapping for youth volunteers and activism. UNFPA also supported the Jerusalem Youth Forum, which engaged 150 students and multiple organizations to promote youth involvement, volunteerism, and community engagement, resulting in 10 youth-led initiatives addressing urgent needs in Jerusalem.

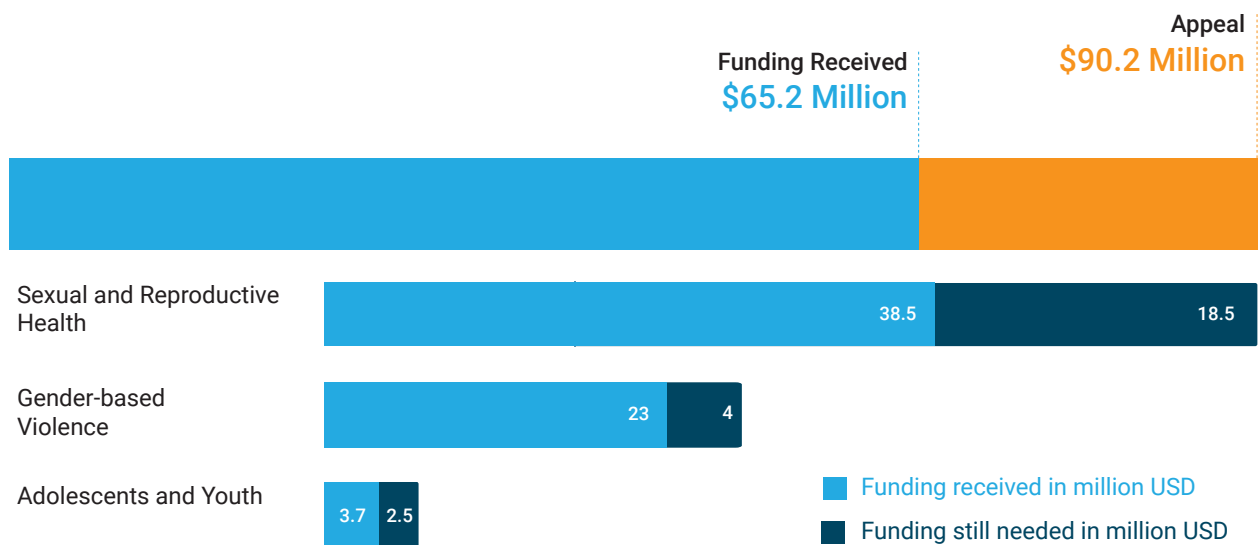
Other working groups

UNFPA leads the Mobile Clinic Working Group, redirecting services to vulnerable locations in the West Bank to address accessibility challenges. Additionally, UNFPA actively participates in the Gaza and West Bank Cash Working Groups and the Gaza Multipurpose Cash Assistance Group.



FUNDING STATUS

As part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) Flash Appeal, UNFPA requested **90.2 million USD** for its operational response from January to December 2024. As of November 2024, UNFPA has received **65.2 million USD**. An additional **25 million USD** is urgently needed to fully support UNFPA's operational response through December 2024.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners and supporters whose contributions have been instrumental in facilitating UNFPA's humanitarian response, particularly in assisting Palestinian women, girls, and youth.

